IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a wire cable with a core cable or core strand, the method comprising, prior to stranding an outer strand layer, applying an intermediate layer of a plastic material to the core cable or core strand, pressing the outer layer into the plastic material during stranding, and deforming the wire cable after stranding of the outer strand layer to smooth its surface and/or to increase its space factor, wherein the outer strand layer is pressed into the plastic material during stranding already to the finally intended extent, further comprising hammering the wire cable after stranding in order to substantially deform the outer strands beyond the deformation of the wire sections at the cable circumference <u>even in areas that are located in the wire cable substantially more inwardly than the wire sections located at the cable circumference</u>.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 for manufacturing a wire cable having a core of plastic material with a strand layer stranded on the core, further comprising pressing the strand layer into the plastic material during stranding and hammering the wire cable after stranding.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein a thermoplastic material is used for the intermediate layer, further comprising heating the thermoplastic material during stranding of the outer strand layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein standard strands with a core wire and a wire layer or parallel-lay strands are used for the outer strand layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein strands with an easily deformable core are used for the outer strand layer.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the deformable core is of soft iron or plastic material.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein hammers are used for hammering which are moved from different sides toward the wire cable and essentially completely surround the wire cable with adapted curvatures at the instant of their simultaneous impact.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein four hammers are used for hammering.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein hammers are used having an axial extension of at least twice the cable diameter.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein hammers are used which have a widening, tapering inlet.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, comprising subjecting the wire cable after hammering to a surface treatment.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, comprising coating the wire cable after hammering.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, comprising providing the wire cable with a sheathing.

24. (Previously Presented) A wire cable having a core cable or core strand, wherein the wire cable is hammered for smoothing its surface and/or for compacting, wherein the wire cable has a plastic intermediate layer or a plastic core beneath the hammered outer strand layer.

25. (Previously Presented) The wire cable according to claim 24, wherein the outer strand layer is comprised of standard strands with a core wire and a single wire layer or parallel-lay strands.